



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 5462

LCO No. 1738



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

***AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION OF SEAT SAFETY BELTS
ON SCHOOL BUSES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 14-275 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2016*):

4 (c) (1) Each school bus shall be equipped with special automatic,
5 electrically-operated flashing stop signals, which shall be independent
6 and separate from the braking, stop and tail lights of standard
7 equipment. Such flashing lights may include automatic traffic
8 signalling devices showing red and amber lights and shall be so
9 located that adequate warning will be afforded to both oncoming and
10 overtaking traffic, except that each school bus manufactured on and
11 after October 1, 1984, and registered for use in this state shall be
12 equipped with an eight-light warning system, showing two red
13 flashing stop signals and two amber flashing warning signals on the
14 front and rear of the bus, and a stop semaphore. The commissioner
15 may adopt standards for an eight-light warning system and standards

16 and specifications for the construction of school buses and for
17 equipment to be maintained on school buses consistent with the
18 provisions of sections 14-275 to 14-281, inclusive.

19 (2) Both public and private owners of school buses shall maintain a
20 record of such kinds of repairs made to such buses as the
21 commissioner may require and such work record shall be available at
22 all times to the commissioner and the commissioner's designated
23 assistants. All such maintenance records shall be retained for a period
24 of two years.

25 (3) Each school bus shall be equipped with emergency lighting
26 equipment as provided by section 14-97a, with a defrosting device as
27 provided by section 14-97, with a system of mirrors as provided in the
28 Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, Section 571.111, as amended, or
29 with an outside mirror as provided by section 14-99 and a system of
30 crossover mirrors designed and mounted so as to give the driver a
31 view of the road from the front bumper forward to a point where
32 direct observation is possible and along the left and right sides of the
33 bus, with a signalling device as provided by section 14-101, and with
34 chain nonskid devices for immediate use on at least one outside or
35 inside rear tire on each side or tires designed to prevent skidding on all
36 rear wheels when weather and highway conditions require such use.

37 (4) Commencing February 1, 1974, each new school bus with a
38 vehicle air brake system shall be so equipped that the brake system is
39 operated from a separate air reservoir tank other than the air reservoir
40 tank used to operate any other compressed air or vacuum operated
41 devices with which the school bus may be equipped.

42 (5) The seating requirements of section 14-273 shall be observed.

43 (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 14-98, school buses
44 may be equipped with tires incorporating a metal nonskid device
45 during the period from October fifteenth to April thirtieth, inclusive.

46 (7) Each school bus that is model year 2007 or newer shall be
 47 equipped with a crossing control arm mounted on the right end of the
 48 front bumper. The commissioner shall establish additional standards
 49 and requirements for such devices in regulations adopted in
 50 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

51 (8) Each school bus that is model year 2021 or newer shall be
 52 equipped with three-point lap and shoulder seat safety belts for each
 53 seating position on such school bus. The commissioner shall suspend
 54 the registration of any school bus not equipped with three-point lap
 55 and shoulder seat safety belts, as required by this subdivision until
 56 such seat safety belts have been installed.

57 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2018*) (a) The operator of and any
 58 passenger of a school bus, as defined in section 14-275 of the general
 59 statutes, as amended by this act, that is equipped with three-point lap
 60 and shoulder seat safety belts shall wear such seat safety belt while the
 61 school bus is being operated.

62 (b) A school district shall provide written notice concerning the
 63 availability and proper use of three-point lap and shoulder seat safety
 64 belts to a parent or legal guardian of each student who will be
 65 transported on a school bus. A school district shall instruct such
 66 students on the proper use, fastening and unfastening of such seat
 67 safety belts.

68 (c) No local or regional school district, carrier with whom a local or
 69 regional school district has contracted for the transportation of
 70 students, or operator of a school bus shall be liable for damages for
 71 injury resulting solely from a student's use, misuse or failure to use a
 72 seat safety belt installed on a school bus.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2016	14-275(c)

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Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To require school buses to be equipped with seat safety belts and to require passengers of a school bus to wear seat safety belts.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]